

Tukwila Tree and Environment Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

Meeting 2, September 29, 2016

Committee Members in Attendance: Sean Albert, Nancy Eklund, Don Scanlon, Sharon Mann, Heidi Watters, Kathleen Wilson,

Committee Members Absent: Stephen Reilly, De'Sean Quinn, Genevieve Christensen

Members of the Public in Attendance: none

Staff in Attendance: Andrea Cummins, Nora Gierloff, Carol Lumb

The meeting began at 6:05 p.m.

Topics of Discussion:

- Brief introductions of committee members and staff.
- Public comment: (Time will be set aside at the beginning of each meeting for brief public comments; the Committee is meeting in work session format, therefore, questions or comments from the public that come up during the course of the meeting should be directed to staff via e-mail or telephone calls after the meeting.)
 - No members of the public were in attendance
- Housekeeping items:
 - The draft meeting notes from 9-13-16 were reviewed – there were no revisions other than correcting the date on the notes.
- Review continued on the draft landscaping code, picking up on page 4, TMC 18.52.030, “Perimeter Landscaping Types”:
 1. *18.52.030 a. 2.c. – if grass is being used as ground cover, the diameter ring of bark mulch should be at least 4 feet around the tree. This same comment applies to the Type II and Type II landscaping subsections. Staff will make the change.
 2. *Page 6, under 2 – why 2% credit for retaining existing healthy canopy cover? Staff will research.
 3. *Page 6, under 3. top of page, last sentence, there was discussion on how to address grade changes around existing trees during construction – staff will review this language and come back with suggested edits.
 4. *TMC 18.52.040 A. 4. – fix height off the ground from 6 inches to 4.5 ft.
 5. *Discussion around what is meant by “drought tolerant plants” – staff will come back with suggested plants for a drought tolerant plant list.
 6. *In #12, page 7, remove the phrase “and monoculture plantings are prohibited”.
 7. *There is duplication between some of the subsections – staff to look at ways to consolidate and simplify the draft code – the revised chapter will be provided prior to the October 13th meeting. For example, group all the screening items together, all plant material guidance together, all pruning requirements together etc. Nancy Eklund also provided suggested organizational changes that will be addressed as part of the simplification and consolidation work on the draft code.

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8. *Related to the above item, move items 7-9 on page 9 to page 7 and consolidate so there is no duplication.
9. For the approved tree list, are we considering banning the use of brittle trees such as cottonwoods and alders? Yes.
10. *Page 7, #7, revise to start sentence in a positive way.
11. TMC 18.52.050: discussion about bioswales and bioretention facilities and their appearance; the effect of the size of bioretention facilities and losing parking stalls. Also curbs should be placed around bioretention facilities. Maintenance is key to the proper working of these facilities.
12. *Delete #10 on page 9 as this exact same text is also found on pg. 11 under "3. Design".
13. *Pg. 10, top of page – this paragraph is very long – create a new paragraph starting at "Trees may only be pruned to lower their height..."
14. *Pg. 10, there is discussion about proper pruning of trees – there should also be reference to the proper pruning of shrubs. Staff will use language from #7 on page 12 as template for shrub care.
15. *Pg. 12, 5. Irrigation – add a requirement to remove temporary irrigation at the end of the 3 year establishment period.
16. Discussion on xeriscaping – establishment of this type of landscaping can take longer – also need in-house expertise to review the plants proposed. Need a list of drought tolerant plants. Consensus that no additional language needed to be added to 5.b.(2).
17. Under "6. Utility Easements" – why are evergreen trees required – wouldn't you want to keep this area clear? Response – evergreens are used for screening – depending on what kind of utility easement it is, screening is appropriate.
18. *Pg. 12 - combine pruning items in #7. with other pruning items sprinkled throughout draft.
19. Pg. 13: Skipped review of **TMC 18.52.060, "Parking Lot Landscaping A. and B."** so that staff can finish integrating parking lot landscaping requirements into the Landscaping by District chart. This chart will be available for the next meeting on October 4th and will be discussed along with this section.
20. For trees in the public frontage – plant smaller trees rather than no trees at all – maybe dwarf trees up to 12 ft. tall or at least some shrubs.
21. *Pg. 15, under C. 1.b. – check items (1)-(6) for consistency with standards previously set forth. These standards are flexible to ensure that trees are planted – just not in a way that will conflict with underground utility lines, power poles etc.
22. *Pg. 15, C. 1.f. – define what is meant by BMPs.
23. Pg. 16, h. iv. – use columnar trees under utility lines.

Action Items

1. See *starred items above for items staff is to address in a revised Committee draft.
2. The next meeting will pick up on page 13, TMC 18.52.060, C. Parking Lot Landscaping and then move to page 16, TMC 1852.070, Procedures.

The meeting closed at 8:25 pm.